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## Administration Reports.

*Administration reports of departments under the hon. the Home Member.*

*2279 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to specify—

(a) the various reports of the administration of the departments under his control published by Government;

(b) in which months the several reports for the years 1921–22, 1922–23, 1924–25, or for 1922, 1923 and 1924 (according to the financial or calendar year) were published;

(c) what the causes there were for the delay, if any of them were published more than six months after the year of report;

(d) whether attempts have been made to publish the several reports for the previous year at least a month before the budget estimates are placed before the Council; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure earlier publication of the reports?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement [a] is appended.

(c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 2316.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"With reference to the answer drawing my attention to question No. 2316, may I enquire whether it is not possible for Government to publish reports of major departments so that they may be placed before the public before the budget discussion?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order. That is a suggestion for action, and not a question for information."

## Forests.

*Enhanced rate of permits for grass, etc., in Udamalpet taluk.*

*2280 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the forest contractors in Udamalpet taluk issue now premits for headloads of grass and bamboo at one anna and four annas respectively while the previous rates were three pies and one anna and, if so, why and under whose authority the enhanced rates are being collected?

A.—The permit fee for headloads of grass was raised from 3 pies to 6 pies in 1920–21 and to one anna in 1923–24. The permit fee for headloads of bamboos was raised from 1 anna to 2 annas in 1915–16 and to 4 annas in 1922–23. These increases were due to increased demand and were made by the contractors under the authority of the agreements executed by them.

*Forest exploitation by firms or companies.*

*2281 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many companies or firms there are in the Presidency, which have applied for permission to undertake forest exploitation;

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 94 infra.

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(*b*) which of them have been allowed to exploit forests at their own cost, and on what conditions;

(*c*) whether they have been granted any facilities by way of roads and otherwise for carrying out forest exploitation; and

(*d*) whether the Government have carried out or propose to carry out any scheme of roads and bridges in order to encourage forest exploitation by private agency?

*A.*—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) No company or firm has applied for permission.

(*d*) Government are prepared to consider any applications which may be received. Meanwhile they are working certain forests experimentally.

## Government Press.

*Alleged complaints against the Superintendent, Government Press.*

*2282 *Q.*—Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the cases of Ayyaswami Pillai, accountant, who has been severely punished by the Superintendent, Government Press, and of Krishnaswami Ayyangar, store-keeper, Sadagoparamanujam, time-keeper, and Rangaswami, a mechanic, dealt with by the Superintendent, Government Press, have been examined by Government and with what results?

*A.*—S. R. Sadagoparamanujam, late time-keeper, and A. Rangaswami, late mechanic, in the Government Press submitted memorials to Government against the orders of the Superintendent, Government Press; the Government examined these cases and decided that the orders of the Superintendent, Government Press, were justified. The other persons mentioned in the question made no representation to the Government.

*Grant of leave to employees in the Government Press.*

*2283 *Q.*—Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that if the employees fall sick and apply for leave for a few days only on the strength of medical certificate, the Superintendent, Government Press, treats the employees as being absent, and, if so, why?

*A.*—The production of a medical certificate does not in itself confer upon a Government servant any right to leave, the grant of which is in the discretion of the Superintendent, Government Press. If an employee absents himself after leave has been refused, the period of absence will be treated as absence from duty.

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, if the production of a medical certificate does not confer upon a Government servant any right to leave, what else can?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"It is clearly stated that the production of a medical certificate does not *in itself* confer . . ."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Then what else does, Sir?"